

northern and central Indiana and nearly \$6 billion in assets. In addition, Mr. Schrage is dedicated and passionate about providing a “servant heart culture” to clients, financial partners, and to the community. Whether it is through sponsorships and donations, volunteerism, or any other means of philanthropic outreach, Centier Bank’s primary goal is to be an engaged and passionate member of the community while creating a sustainable impact.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and commitment to the region and beyond, each of them is worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING SPECIAL EVENT
SERVICES

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 20, 2021

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American spirit of determination, resilience, and steady faith as embodied by Special Event Services (SES), a full service technical production company headquartered in Mocksville, North Carolina.

Keeping time with the music industry, it came as no surprise to founding partners Jim Brammer and Jeff Cranfill that earning a living from their craft would require infectious passion and a commitment to the next show, regardless of the size of the crowd. From their opening act as a 1986 garage start-up, the duo steadily grew SES into a major industry player, eventually providing their live-event production services in audio, lighting, video, and rigging to the likes of 18 Grammy winners and many more.

SES’ clientele ranges from iconic legends of decades past, like Hootie and the Blowfish and Lynyrd Skynyrd, to contemporary chart-toppers such as Luke Combs, Ed Sheeran, and The Avett Brothers. Also aligned with the heart of the company’s business is their desire

to amplify Christian voices, and SES has provided services to Franklin Graham, Joyce Meyer, and Joel Osteen, among others.

Such success, however, hasn’t been achieved without its own share of challenges. When concerts, shows, and national tours came screeching to a halt at the onset of 2020’s COVID-19 pandemic, SES too was forced to take a hiatus from their regular way of doing business. Due to lockdown and stay-at-home orders, the company pivoted instead to producing intimate online sessions streamed for fans to view from their homes.

In October of 2020—despite a grim outlook for the live event and performance industry as they knew it—SES celebrated the grand opening of their recently completed new base of operations, planting them in the historic town of Mocksville, the heart of Davie County. Fast-forward to the summer of 2021, and business is rapidly picking up tempo, proving our economy is primed to rebound to its former heights. One higher profile example of recent note, the Carolina Country Music Festival, featured a star-studded lineup and over 30,000 fans in attendance for the multi-day festival. Being tapped to lead the production was SES, a decision that’s indicative of the industry’s confidence in the company and its work.

Though 2020 was a year of uncertainty, the company set their sights ahead and continued working towards the reemergence of their core business: live-event production services. With tours, festivals, performances, and gatherings back in full swing, it’s abundantly clear that a central belief of SES that “Together we are greater than the sum of our parts” is ringing loud and true.

Please join me in applauding Special Event Services for their perseverance through adversity as they faithfully live out their work’s mission, one show at a time.

HONORING LT. GEN. JOHN F.
GONGE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 20, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General John F.

Gonge for his long and distinguished military career as well as the establishment of the Gonge Innovation Center at Travis Air Force Base’s Phoenix Spark Lab. Lt. Gen. Gonge was born in 1921, in Ansley, Neb., where he graduated from Ansley High School in 1938 before his desire to serve led him to enter active military service as an aviation cadet. He attended the U.S. Army Air Corps Flying School at Lubbock Army Air Field, Texas, where he received his pilot wings and commission as a second lieutenant in December 1943. During World War II, he flew the “Hump” in the China-Burma-India campaigns with the Army Air Corps Air Transport Command, ensuring crucial resources could be transported through the treacherous Himalayas to American allies.

A career transport pilot, General Gonge has filled innumerable roles during his career, remaining with airlift forces through Air Training Command, Military Air Transport Service, and Military Airlift Command. At each stop along the way he has imparted his experience and wisdom to many others who seek to serve their country. In July 1969 he came to Travis Air Force Base as vice commander of the 60th Military Airlift Wing before he was assigned as commander of the 63d Military Airlift Wing at Norton Air Force Base, Calif., in February 1970. Subsequently, General Gonge commanded the 22d Air Force at Travis Air Force Base from August 1972 to August 1975, when he became vice commander of the Military Airlift Command.

General Gonge is a command pilot with more than 13,000 flying hours. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem. These recognitions and his promotion to the grade of lieutenant general in September, 1975 make it clear that General Gonge’s legacy will continue to guide and inspire generations to come. On behalf of the people of California’s 3rd Congressional District, I offer my sincere gratitude for his many decades of dedicated service.